IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A stent delivery system, the system comprising:

a) an inner shaft having a length from a proximal end ~~and~~ to a distal end;

b) an outer shaft moveable with respect to the inner shaft, the outer shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

c) a stent receiving area on the inner shaft adjacent the inner shaft distal end;

d) a tip mounted on the inner shaft distal end;

e) means coupled to the inner shaft and outer shaft for manipulating the outer shaft with respect to the inner shaft;

f) a stent positioned in the stent receiving area; and

g) a spacer assembly disposed between the inner shaft and the outer shaft, said spacer assembly including a channel spacer, extending coaxially along and in contact with a portion of the length of said inner shaft having a plurality of channels spaced about a circumference said inner shaft and channel spacer combination, wherein said spacer assembly supports said inner shaft with respect to said outer shaft by eliminating slack when said outer shaft is moved with respect to said inner shaft.

3. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 wherein the channel spacer defines a plurality of channels extending along a length of a lumen defined between the outer shaft and the inner shaft.

6. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 and further comprising a radiopaque marker on the inner shaft approximate the stent receiving area.

7. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 and further comprising a coupling member and a valve relief on said outer shaft, the coupling member selectively coupling the valve relief to the outer shaft.

8. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 wherein the means coupled to the outer shaft and inner shaft comprises a handle with a reciprocating knob coupled to the outer shaft whereby the outer shaft is moved with respect to the movement of the knob.

9. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 wherein the means coupled to the outer shaft and inner shaft includes a moveable knob coupled to the inner shaft for moving the inner shaft longitudinally with respect to the outer shaft.

10. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 wherein the tip has a proximal end and a distal end and the tip is tapered towards its distal end

11. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 wherein the stent receiving area has a stent stop.

12. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 wherein a stent stop comprises a radiopaque marker.

13. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 and further comprising a radiopaque marker on the distal end of the outer shaft.

14. (Previously Amended) The stent delivery system of claim 2 wherein the stent has a plurality of segments in a first radial position and a plurality of second segments in a second radial position when in an unexpanded configuration.

15-19. (canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A stent delivery system, the system comprising:

a) an inner shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

b) an outer shaft moveable with respect to the inner shaft, the outer shaft having a

proximal end and a distal end;

c) a stent receiving area on the inner shaft adjacent the inner shaft distal end;

d) a tip mounted on the inner shaft distal end;

e) a knob of a handle coupled to the inner shaft and a housing of said handle coupled to said outer shaft wherein relative motion of said knob with respect to said housing in a slot in said housing causes motion of the outer shaft with respect to the inner shaft;

wherein said knob is rotatably moveable with respect to said handle, when said knob is moveable in a transverse slot, said knob cannot move in a longitudinal slot of said handle, such that said knob must be rotated from a locked position in said transverse slot positioned to prevent unintended initial deployment of a stent positioned at said stent receiving area of said inner shaft and

~~f) a stent positioned in the stent receiving area.~~

21.--24. (Cancelled)